

Log #: 99-014

Status: Complete

This initiative implemented a Web-accessible data warehouse to improve student achievement and teacher quality by providing educational administrators, principals, and teachers access to the data they need for effective planning and decision making.

The system provides information from student, staff, financial, and standardized test score data to be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week through a desktop with a web browser to all authorized users. For example, data is provided on:

- 1) Student information for demographics, grades, courses, discipline records, mobility rates, standardized test results, special ed, etc.;
- 2) Staff for demographics, staff counts by school, courses and students taught;
- 3) Financial information for budget by facility, actual to planned expenditures, expenditures by program, function, and object codes.
- 4) Accountability information comprising six years of student, school, district and state performance data.

Highlights:

- Fourteen different systems comprised of student, financial, testing, staff, and accountability data were loaded into the warehouse. The goal is to have five years' (or all years) worth of data for each system loaded. Currently all the systems except for two have been loaded to these specifications.
- A portal at www.leadr.info was deployed for the display of publicly available reports. Over 40 reports are currently available with a projected number exceeding 300. The system has received over 5000 hits since it went 'live' in September 2003. The lack of activity has been intentional as the LDE has been dissatisfied with the front end provided to produce and display these reports. It is difficult to use, nearly impossible to train those unfamiliar with data processing, and its display capabilities are limited. The LDE is in the process of ameliorating this condition with the acquisition of a more productive and user-friendly front-end. Currently there are over 40 userids issued, of which only about 10% are actively in use. It is expected that the acquisition of this new report developer will substantially improve the usage.
- Data is organized in a logical "business-like" format and easily accessible with a query tool, as opposed to residing in various databases and flat files and accessible only with a process language such as COBOL or SAS. Data request turnaround using the warehouse has been cut by 75%. It is expected to improve as more data is loaded into the warehouse and the skill set of the users improves. More data will become available to the public as customized and parameterized reports are published. Various interested groups such as legislative staff and department personnel will have data immediately available during meetings and conferences. To this end the warehouse has fulfilled its mandates. Many new requirements, particularly the No Child Left Behind Act, require data publication and propagation. The warehouse is the repository of record for this and many accountability reports are being developed using the data stored. With the

acquisition of the new front-end, it is expected to replace many of the existing static reports. Furthermore, other federal initiatives (*e.g.*, PBDMI) are being met using the warehouse as the sole source of information.

- The subsequent acquisition of a new online analytical processing (OLAP) tool to create reports that are easier to run and more intuitive in operation shall improve the user acceptance of the warehouse and response time of reports being run. Additionally, the “slicing and dicing” capabilities of the tool shall enhance the utility of the warehouse.